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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

REDDICK, MARIE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1713

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/632,606

Applicant(s)

SATO, SHO

Examiner

Judy M. Reddick

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/29/04 & 12/14/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/14/04 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed on 11/29/04 has been considered and is sufficient to remove the rejection under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as applied to claims 1 & 3-7 (08/19/04, paragraph no. 2) and the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as applied to claims 1 & 3-7 (08/19/04, paragraph no. 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1 & 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recited “the thermoplastic elastomer” per claim 1 constitutes indefinite subject matter as per the non-establishment of proper antecedent basis. Further, it is not readily ascertainable as to how such further limits the antecedently recited “hydrogenated styrene block copolymer”. It is suggested that applicants replace “thermoplastic elastomer” with “hydrogenated styrene block copolymer” so as to maintain claim language consistency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1 & 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yamasaki et al (U.S. 5,109,068).

Yamasaki et al teach a styrene-based polymer composition, suitable for materials such as the exterior trim parts of an automobile, engine compartment parts, machine parts, electric and electronic parts, domestic kitchenware, etc. which comprises (A) 10 to 98% by weight of a styrene-based polymer having syndiotactic configuration with a racemic pentad of 30% or more, (B) 90 to 2% by weight of polyphenylene ether such as poly(2,6-dimethyl-1,4-phenylene)ether having an intrinsic viscosity of 0.28 dl/g or more at 30 degree C in chloroform, (C) 3-40 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of components (A) and (B) of a flame retarder which includes phosphorous-based flame retarders such as tricresyl phosphate, triethyl phosphate, etc., (D) 1 to 15 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of components (A) and (B) of a flame-retardant aid, (E) 5 to 85 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of components (A) and (B) of a rubber-like elastomer and/or inorganic filler wherein the rubber-like elastomer includes a partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-butadiene block copolymer, a partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-isoprene block copolymer, etc. and other conventional additives such as antioxidants, lubricants, etc. See the Abstract, col. 1, lines 8-16, col. 2, lines 20-68, col. 3, lines 46-68, col. 4, lines 1-65 and especially lines 4-5 & 62-65, col. 5, lines 1-68, col. 6, lines 18-68, col. 7, lines 62-65, and TABLES 3 and 4 of Yamasaki et al. Yamasaki et al therefore anticipate the instantly claimed invention with the understanding that the resin composition of Yamasaki et al overlaps in scope with the resin composition of the instant claims. The use of the resin composition of Yamasaki et al as a wire and cable covering would be expected since the resin composition

of Yamasaki et al is essentially the same as and made in essentially the same manner as the claimed resin composition. It is well settled that when a claimed product reasonably appears to be substantially the same as a product disclosed in the prior art, the burden of proof is on the applicants to prove that the prior art product does not inherently or necessarily possess the characteristics attributed to the claimed product. See *In re Spada* 15 USPQ 2d 1655 (CAFC 1990). "The absence of a disclosure relating to function does not defeat a finding of anticipation. It is well settled that the recitation of a new intended use for an old product does not make a claim to that old product". *In re Schreiber*, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431(Fed Cir 1997).

Further, the molecular weight distribution of the (E) hydrogenated styrene block copolymer and tensile strength and elongation of the composition, as claimed, may very well be met by the rubber-like elastomer and composition, respectively, of Yamasaki et al (col. 5, lines 51-68 to col. 6, lines 1-17 and at least Run 6), in the absence of the USPTO to have at its disposal the tools nor facilities to make physical determinations of this sort. In any event, the use of any commercially available rubber-like elastomer in lieu of the rubber-like elastomer of Yamasaki et al would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art and with a reasonable expectation of equivalent results. Moreover, since the composition of Yamasaki et al is essentially the same as the claimed composition, it would be expected that the tensile strength and elongation, as claimed, would be met.

It has been held that where applicants claims a composition in terms of function, property of characteristic where said function is not explicitly shown by the reference and where the Examiner has explained why the function, property or characteristic is considered inherent in the prior art, it is appropriate for the Examiner to make a rejection under both the applicable sections of 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 such that the burden is placed upon applicant to provide clear evidence that the respective compositions do, in fact, differ as provided for under the guise of *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 430, 433(CCPA 1977); *In re Fitzgerald et al*, 205 USPQ 594.

As to the "consisting essentially of" clause, such only precludes those components that would materially alter the basic and novel characteristics of applicant's composition (*Ex parte Davis*, 80 USPQ 448, PTO Bd. App. 1948 and *In re Janakirama-Rao*, 317 F 2d 951, 137 USPQ 893, (CCPA 1963)).

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Even if it turns out that the claims are not anticipated by Yamasaki et al, it would have been obvious to the skilled artisan to extrapolate, from the disclosure of Yamasaki et al, the defined resin composition, as claimed, as per such having been within the purview of the general disclosure of Yamasaki et al and with a reasonable expectation of success.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamasaki et al(U.S. 5,109,068), alone, or further in combination with Cizek(U.S. 3,383,435).

Yamasaki et al is relied on for all that it teaches as set forth in the rejection supra per paragraph no. 7 as applied to claims 1 & 3-7. Further, the myriad of suitable uses for the resin composition cited per col. 1, lines 8-16 which include machine parts, electric and electronic parts is generic to and necessary implies that

any use for the disclosed resin composition, including the claimed "wire covering"(claim 6) and "cable covering"(claim 7), would have been operable within the scope of patentees invention and with a reasonable expectation of success. Alternatively, Cizek teaches the use of thermoplastic compositions comprising a polyphenylene ether and a styrene resin, similar to the resin composition of Yamasaki et al, to prepare molded, calendared or extruded articles, films, tapes, etc. to be used in a broad array of applications which include electrical applications such as in cable terminals, wire tapes, etc. (see, the paragraph bridging cols 8-9 of Cizek). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the resin composition of Yamasaki et al for wire coverings and cable coverings as taught by Cizek and with a reasonable expectation of success.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. Claims 1 & 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Funayama et al(U.S. 5,391,611).

Funayama et al teach a styrenic resin composition, suitable for general construction materials, electric and electronic parts, car parts, raw materials for film, fiber, sheet, etc., comprising (A) a styrenic polymer having high degree of syndiotactic configuration and (B) a rubbery polymer having a product of weight-average molecular weight and styrenic monomer unit content (Cst) - (Mw X Cst) being at least 30,000. More specifically, Funayama et al teach a styrenic resin composition comprising 50 to 98% by weight of (A) a styrenic polymer having high degree of syndiotactic configuration and 50 to 2% by weight of (B) a rubbery polymer having a product of weight-average molecular weight and styrenic monomer unit content of at least 30,000 wherein, said rubbery polymer includes a hydrogenated styrene-butadiene block copolymer rubber; a styrenic resin composition which comprises 100 parts by weight of the mixture of 50 to 98% by weight of the aforesaid component (A) and 50 to 2% by weight of the aforesaid component (B), 0.1 to 50 parts by weight of (C) a polyphenylene ether having a polar group wherein said polyphenylene ether includes those governed by an intrinsic viscosity of 0.45 in chloroform at 25 degrees C and includes poly(2,6-dimethyl-1,4-phenylene ether(See at least preparation Runs 2 and 3)and 1 to 350 parts by weight of (D) a filler surface-treated with a coupling agent and a styrenic resin composition which comprises 100

parts by weight of the mixture of 50 to 98 % by weight of the aforesaid component (A) and 50 to 2 % by weight of the aforesaid component (B), 0.1 to 50 parts by weight of the aforesaid component (C), 1 to 350 parts by weight of the aforesaid component (D), 3 to 60 parts by weight of (E) a flame retardant which includes tricresyl phosphate, triethyl phosphate, etc., 1 to 15 parts by weight of (F) a flame retardant aid and other conventional additives such as stabilizers, antioxidants, lubricants, other thermoplastic resins such as unmodified polyphenylene ether etc. See the Abstract, col. 2, lines 9-41, col. 3, lines 25-68 to col. 4, lines 1-3, col. 4, lines 56-65, col. 6, lines 43-68, col. 8, lines 30-50, col. 9, lines 6-9 and 15-57, col. 12, lines 22-39 & 57-60, the Runs and the claims of Funayama et al. Funayama et al therefore anticipate the instantly claimed invention with the understanding that the styrenic resin composition of Funayama et al overlaps in scope with the instantly claimed resin composition. The use of the resin composition of Funayama et al et al as a wire and cable covering would be expected since the resin composition of Funayama et al is essentially the same as and made in essentially the same manner as the claimed resin composition. It is well settled that when a claimed product reasonably appears to be substantially the same as a product disclosed in the prior art, the burden of proof is on the applicants to prove that the prior art product does not inherently or necessarily possess the characteristics attributed to the claimed product. See *In re Spada* 15 USPQ 2d 1655 (CAFC 1990). "The absence of a disclosure relating to function does not defeat a finding of anticipation. It is well settled that the recitation of a new intended use for an old product does not make a claim to that old product". *In re Schreiber*, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431(Fed Cir 1997).

Further, the molecular weight distribution of the (E) hydrogenated styrene block copolymer and tensile strength and elongation of the composition, as claimed, may very well be met by the hydrogenated styrene block copolymer and composition, respectively, of Funayama et al (col. 3, lines 25-53 and Runs 1-16), in the absence of the USPTO to have at its disposal the tools nor facilities to make physical determinations of this sort. In any event, the use of any commercially available hydrogenated styrene block copolymer in lieu of the hydrogenated styrene block copolymer of Funayama et al would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art and with a reasonable expectation of equivalent results. Furthermore, since the



composition of Funayama et al is essentially the same as the claimed composition, it would be expected that the tensile strength and elongation, as claimed, would be met.

It has been held that where applicants claims a composition in terms of function, property of characteristic where said function is not explicitly shown by the reference and where the Examiner has explained why the function, property or characteristic is considered inherent in the prior art, it is appropriate for the Examiner to make a rejection under both the applicable sections of 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 such that the burden is placed upon applicant to provide clear evidence that the respective compositions do, in fact, differ as provided for under the guise of *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 430, 433(CCPA 1977); *In re Fitzgerald et al*, 205 USPQ 594.

As to the “consisting essentially of” clause, such only precludes those components that would materially alter the basic and novel characteristics of applicant’s composition (*Ex parte Davis*, 80 USPQ 448, PTO Bd. App. 1948 and *In re Janakirama-Rao*, 317 F 2d 951, 137 USPQ 893, (CCPA 1963)).

Even if it turns out that the claims are not anticipated by Funayama et al, it would have been obvious to the skilled artisan to extrapolate, from the disclosure of Funayama et al, the defined resin composition, as claimed, as per such having been within the purview of the general disclosure of Funayama et al and with a reasonable expectation of success.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. Claims 6 & 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funayama et al(U.S. 5,391,611), alone, or further in combination with Cizek(U.S. 3,383,435).

Funayama et al is relied on for all that it teaches as set forth in the rejection supra as applied to claims 1 & 3-7. Further, the myriad of suitable uses for the resin composition cited per col. 12, lines 57-60 which includes general construction materials, electric and electronic parts, etc. is generic to and necessary implies that any use for the disclosed resin composition, including the claimed “wire covering”(claim 6) and “cable covering”(claim 7), would have been operable within the scope of patentees invention and with a reasonable expectation of success. Alternatively, Cizek teaches the use of thermoplastic compositions comprising a polyphenylene ether and a styrene resin, similar to the resin composition of Funayama et al, to prepare molded, calendared or extruded articles, films, tapes, etc. to be used in a broad array of applications

which include electrical applications such as in cable terminals, wire tapes, etc. (see, the paragraph bridging cols 8-9 of Cizek). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the resin composition of Funayama et al for wire coverings and cable coverings as taught by Cizek and with a reasonable expectation of success.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. Claims 1 & 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano (U.S. 5,165,990). Nakano disclose a stampable sheet, useful in applications such as cable slice cover (6 & 7), defined basically as containing (a) 95 to 20 wt. % of styrene polymer such as polystyrene having a syndiotactic configuration, (b) 5 to 80 wt. % of a fibrous reinforcement material, for improvement of adhesion of component (a) to component (b), 0.1 to 50 parts by weight based on 100 parts by wt. of (a) of (c) a polyphenylene ether such as poly(2,6-dimethylphenylene-1,4-ether) and, as a main ingredient, a styrene polymer having isotactic, atactic or syndiotactic configuration and (d) other conventional additives such as rubber-like elastomers such as a styrene-hydrogenated butadiene block copolymer, a styrene-hydrogenated isoprene block copolymer, etc., 3 to 40 parts by weight , based on 100 parts by weight of (a) & (b), of flame retardants such as tricresyl phosphate, etc. See, the Abstract, cols. 2-15, the Runs and Claims of Nakano. The disclosure of Nakano differs basically from the claimed invention as to the silence of the content of rubber-like elastomer permitted. However, such is a necessary indication that any amount of rubber-like elastomer, including the claimed amount, would have been operable within the scope of patentee's invention and with a reasonable expectation of success.  
  
As to the molecular weight distribution of the rubber-like polymer and the tensile strength and elongation of the composition, as modified, it is tenable that these properties may be met by the component and composition, respectively, in the absence of the USPTO to have at its disposal, the tools and facilities deemed necessary to make physical determinations of this sort.  
  
Furthermore, the use of any commercially available hydrogenated styrene block copolymer in lieu of the hydrogenated styrene block copolymer of Nakano would have been obvious to the skilled artisan and with a reasonable expectation of equivalent results.

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As to the “consisting essentially of” clause, such only precludes those components that would materially alter the basic and novel characteristics of applicant’s composition (Ex parte Davis, 80 USPQ 448, PTO Bd. App. 1948 and In re Janakirama-Rao, 317 F 2d 951, 137 USPQ 893, (CCPA 1963)).

#### Response to Arguments

14. Applicant’s arguments filed 06/09/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a) Relative to Yamasaki et al---The crux of Counsel’s arguments appears to hinge on the silence of Patentee with regard to both the tensile strength of the composition and the molecular weight distribution of the rubber-like elastomer. To this end, Counsel has not demonstrated on this record that the tensile strength and molecular weight distribution of the composition and rubber-like elastomer, respectively, of Yamasaki et al do not meet the claimed limitations. Mere Counsel’s arguments unsupported by factual evidence are given little weight. In re Lindner(173 USPQ 356). Furthermore, while Counsel argues that Yamasaki et al do not teach or suggest a combination of an atactic styrene-based polymer and a syndiotactic styrene-based polymer, the claims, in their present form, do not require the presence of atactic polystyrene resin.

b) Relative to Yamasaki et al w/Cizek---The crux of Counsel’s arguments appears to hinge on Cizek teaches a composition of polyphenylene ether and atactic polystyrene and does not teach syndiotactic polystyrene. To this end, it is urged and maintained that the instantly claimed invention is deemed obvious within the meaning of 35 USC 103 (a) over Yamasaki et al in combination with Cizek as per reasons clearly stated in paragraph 10 supra. Cizek is provided as evidence that similar polyphenylene ether/styrene resin blend compositions are disclosed as having utilities equivalent to the utilities disclosed for similar polyphenylene ether/styrene resin blend compositions per Yamasaki et al and therefore, the use of the blend compositions of Yamasaki et al as a wire covering and a cable covering would have been obvious to the skilled artisan and with a reasonable expectation of success. There is nothing ironclad on this record diffusing this issue.

c) Relative to Funayama et al---The crux of Counsel’s arguments appear to hinge on Funayama et al neither teaching nor suggesting an atactic styrenic polymer in addition to the syndiotactic styrenic polymer. To this end, the claims, in their present form, do not require the presence of atactic styrenic polymer.

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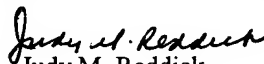
d) Relative to Funayama et al w/Cizek---The crux of Counsel's arguments appears to hinge on Cizek teaches a composition of polyphenylene ether and atactic polystyrene and does not teach the addition of a syndiotactic polystyrene. To this end, it is urged and maintained that the instantly claimed invention is deemed obvious within the meaning of 35 USC 103 (a) over Funayama et al in combination with Cizek as per reasons clearly stated in paragraph 12 supra. Cizek is provided as evidence that similar polyphenylene ether/styrene resin blend compositions are disclosed as having utilities equivalent to the utilities disclosed for similar polyphenylene ether/styrene resin blend compositions per Funayama et al and therefore, the use of the blend compositions of Funayama et al as a wire covering and a cable covering would have been obvious to the skilled artisan and with a reasonable expectation of success. There is nothing ironclad on this record diffusing this issue.


#### Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Judy M. Reddick whose telephone number is (571) 272-1110. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Judy M. Reddick  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1713

JMR   
02/27/05